

FREDERICKSBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT

2016 ANNUAL REPORT





OUR MISSION

The Fredericksburg Police Department is dedicated to serving and protecting our community. The Department works to maintain the safety of the citizens of Fredericksburg, to preserve the peace, and to protect property. We endeavor to improve the quality of life in our City by developing strong relationships with the community. We are committed to the highest ethical standards of law enforcement and our duty to serve with honor and integrity.

ACCREDITATION

Since 2009, the Fredericksburg Police Department has been a nationally accredited law enforcement agency through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA.) In 2015, the Department was awarded Advanced Accreditation with Excellence, which is the highest rating a law enforcement agency can obtain from CALEA and sets the benchmark for public safety professionalism.



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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MESSAGE FROM CHIEF DAVID NYE

In 2016, the use of technology and social media continued to have an impact on policing and building the public's trust. Our Department continued to build relationships with City residents by participating in community events and staying engaged with our citizens. We also strive to have state-of-the-art equipment and partnered with the Fredericksburg City Fire Department to upgrade our public safety radio system. The process was a large undertaking and required the cooperation of multiple agencies from our surrounding jurisdictions. The new radio system provides clear, reliable coverage across the City as well as enabling better communications with other local jurisdictions.

I am happy to report that major crime rates in the City of Fredericksburg decreased in 2016. A more detailed accounting can be found on page 12 of this report. A higher-than-expected turnover rate in 2016 caused the Department to experience serious challenges with officer staffing. However, our dedicated men and women were able to make adjustments to ensure first-class public safety services for the residents of Fredericksburg.

It is a priority for the Fredericksburg Police Department to maintain an open and honest dialog with members of the community, especially with the challenges that have faced police departments across the nation over the past year. Toward that end, we have continued working with our Citizens' Advisory Panel, which was created in late 2015. This panel comprises a diverse group of City residents. Through quarterly meetings, the panel helps residents and members of the Fredericksburg Police Department to maintain an open relationship. In addition, we have continued our Single Point of Contact liaison program, which pairs an officer with a neighborhood so that their needs or concerns are addressed by a familiar face. We enjoy our public outreach and appreciate how gracious and supportive this community has been to us. Make sure to follow us on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube so we can stay connected.

With our world changing so quickly, it is extremely important to assess the needs of our Department and the community in which we serve, so we can make any necessary changes or advancements to provide the best possible police services.



David Nye



NOTABLE EVENTS

JANUARY

Police Department Launches Anonymous Tip App for Smart Phones

The Fredericksburg Police Department launched FPD Tip, a free smartphone app that allows citizens to send anonymous tips directly to the Police Department. Available for iPhone and Android devices, the app allows the public to share important public safety information or suspicious activity tips anonymously and securely with the Department. Smartphone users who do not want to download the app can send an anonymous tip via text message.

FEBRUARY

A “New Year” Brings a New Way for Police to Engage with City Youth

Several police officers visited second-grade classes at Hugh Mercer Elementary School on the Chinese New Year and crafted Chinese lanterns with students. The craft activity was interactive and aligned with the students’ study of China.

Police Officers Ask Senior Citizens to “Police Be Mine”

Six Fredericksburg police officers visited 24 senior citizens around the City and delivered cards and chocolates. The cards were signed by dozens of Fredericks-

burg Police Department employees and said, “Police Be Mine.” This activity is a way for officers to interact directly with senior citizens, a demographic frequently targeted by scammers. [Click here](#) for a highlights video.

Department Continues its Commitment to Fair and Impartial Training

Two officers, Lt. James Kuebler and Sgt. Rashawn Cowles, received their instructor certification in Fair and Impartial Policing from a nationally recognized program. Lt. Kuebler and Sgt. Cowles are now able to teach fellow officers the science behind human bias and help officers provide fair and impartial services to all citizens.

Sworn Officers Begin Carrying Anti-Overdose Drug

The Fredericksburg Police Department equipped all sworn officers with naloxone (Narcan), a drug that blocks the effects of opioids and can reverse an overdose almost instantaneously. All patrol and detective vehicles have been equipped with the drug so that officers can administer Narcan instead of waiting for paramedics to arrive. Patrol officers are often the first to arrive on a scene, and it is important to administer Narcan as quickly as possible to reverse an overdose. Last year, City police administered Narcan 12 times and each time the drug overdose was successfully reversed.

MARCH

Police Request Third Graders' Assistance on St. Patrick's Day

On St. Patrick's Day, police officers set up a "leprechaun crime scene" at Lafayette Upper Elementary School and asked third-graders to put on their detective caps and help them investigate. Students discovered leprechaun footprints, four-leaf clovers, gold coins, and green water.

APRIL

Department Celebrates Its Communications Officers

National Telecommunications Week is dedicated to celebrating communications officers. To honor the Fredericksburg Police Department's communications officers, Department employees purchased Telecommunications Week buttons and wore them all week, a fresh, catered meal was delivered to each shift, and therapy dogs visited each shift. Communications officers also participated in a regional "Crock Pot Cook-Off" to showcase their cooking talents. Several Fredericksburg Police Department employees also expressed their appreciation for communications officers on [a video](#) that was released on our social media channels.

Department Hosts SkillsUSA Competition at Police Headquarters

On Saturday, April 16, the Fredericksburg Police Department and Fredericksburg Sheriff's Office hosted two events for SkillsUSA's statewide competition. High school students from around the state competed in either a patrol scenario or a crime-scene investigation. In preparation for the event, Police Department staff spent time creating real-life crime scenes and incidents for students to investigate. The top finalists went on to compete in the national SkillsUSA competition.

Fredericksburg Police Department Assists with Operation Medicine Cabinet

The Fredericksburg Police Department assisted with Operation Medicine Cabinet, a bi-annual event held throughout the region that provides the public with a safe way to discard expired or unused medications and sharps. Fredericksburg Police officers assisted with the Fredericksburg drop-off location and helped collect 659 pounds of medicine and sharps at the April event and more than 400 pounds at the October event.





MAY

Officers Participate in Law Enforcement United (LEU) Road to Hope Memorial Ride

Sgt. Rashawn Cowles and Officer Chris Perdue participated in Law Enforcement United's 250-mile "Road to Hope" bicycle ride to honor law enforcement officers who were killed in 2015 in the line of duty. Riders stopped midway through their trek at the Rappahannock Regional Criminal Justice Academy and were greeted by family, supporters and local law enforcement agencies. Chief David Nye welcomed the riders to Fredericksburg and provided words of encouragement. Administrative Assistant to the Detective Division Debbie Marrs and Auxiliary Officer Ted Marrs volunteered as part of the support team for Team Fredericksburg.

Community Comes Together to Support Road to Hope Riders

Two weeks before Sgt. Cowles and Officer Perdue started their 250-mile bicycle ride, they learned that a sponsor, who in previous years provided several pallets of water and sports drinks to riders, would not be providing items this year. Sgt. Cowles initiated a grassroots effort to collect beverages for riders. He went on local radio stations B 101.5 FM and WFVA 1230 AM and asked listeners to donate a case or two of beverages for the riders. Community support came pouring in from citizens and businesses. LEU ended up with more bottled waters and sports drinks than they could use for the ride. This was a true testament to the greater Fredericksburg community's support for local law enforcement.

JUNE

Fredericksburg Region Makes Protecting Senior Citizens a Priority

On June 8, Fredericksburg Police Chief David Nye, Spotsylvania County Sheriff Roger Harris, and Stafford County Sheriff David Decatur formally signed the TRIAD agreement, a cooperative effort focused on reducing crime against senior citizens. Virginia Attorney General Mark Herring spoke at the signing and praised the Fredericksburg region's commitment to protecting senior citizens.



JUNE CONTINUED...

Police Department Participates in Annual Torch Run for Special Olympics

On June 10, 13 members of the Department participated in the annual Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Virginia. Special Olympian Matthew Doyle passed the "Flame of Hope" torch to Chief David Nye on the Falmouth Bridge. Chief Nye and his team carried the torch to the Spotsylvania County line where it was passed to a Spotsylvania County Sheriff's deputy. The torch continued to Richmond to commence the Special Olympics Virginia Summer Games.

Second Annual Badges for Baseball Camp is Another Home Run

Fredericksburg's Fire Department, Rescue Squad, Sheriff's Office, and Police Department teamed up with the Sunshine Ballpark Foundation in July for the City's second-annual Badges for Baseball camp. The week-long camp was open to City children between the ages of 8 and 12. The camp is designed to build positive relationships between law enforcement and the children living in underserved communities, while also teaching children leadership skills and building their confidence.

JULY

Fredericksburg Police Forge Strong Relationship with City Youth during Camp Crime Fighters

The Fredericksburg Police hosted its fourth annual Camp Crime Fighters. Twenty-five children ages 8 to 12 learned life and safety skills from the men and women of the Police Department, including self-defense, first aid, and how to properly use a fire extinguisher. Campers also enjoyed fun activities, including rappelling, crime-scene investigation, swimming at Dixon Park, and exploring Braehead Farm. This program builds strong, healthy relationships between officers and City youth.

Police Department Helps Build Character in Young Men

On Aug. 30, Fredericksburg Police participated in the eighth annual Rites of Passage camp and hosted young men at Department headquarters. Officers spent time building trust with the campers and also built the campers' confidence by showing them how to use the department's obstacle course. [Click here](#) to watch a highlights video.

JULY CONTINUED...

Police & Local Businesses Raise Money for Special Olympics VA

On July 13, the Fredericksburg Police Department hosted a fund-raising event for Special Olympics Virginia at the Chipotle located at 1601 Jefferson Davis Highway. The event raised \$482 for Special Olympics Virginia. A Cover the Cruiser event was held for Special Olympics Virginia at Sugar Shack in October and raised \$125.

AUGUST

Police Department and Fredericksburg Branch NAACP Partner to Educate Community

The Fredericksburg Police Department and the Fredericksburg Branch NAACP partnered together and created a public service announcement video that explains what citizens can anticipate during a vehicle stop by a City police officer. The 3-minute video highlights how officers and drivers should act during a vehicle stop, how to inform a law enforcement officer if there is a weapon in the vehicle, and what a driver should do if they feel they have been mistreated.

Police Spend Time with City Residents During National Night Out

Eight neighborhoods in the City of Fredericksburg participated in National Night Out and hosted events for their residents. Neighborhoods that participated included Mill Park Terrace, Madonna House at Belmont, Evergreens at Smith Run, Hazel Hill Apartments, Heritage Park, Bragg Hill Apartments, the Preserve at Smith Run, and Twin Lakes. Fredericksburg police officers enjoyed being a part of each neighborhood event and getting to know the men, women, and children they proudly serve.

Fredericksburg Police Support Peaceful Black Lives Matter Protest

A Black Lives Matter protest was organized and staged in downtown Fredericksburg on one of the hottest days of the summer. Patrol Capt. Brian Layton and Sgt. Rashawn Cowles met with the organizer ahead of the protest to discuss logistics and safety, and to affirm the Department's support of peaceful protests. Officers took the protesters cold water to keep them hydrated and struck up conversations during the protest. The protest remained peaceful and opened dialogue between protesters and police.

Employees Donate Their Hair to Children with Hair Loss

The Police Department continued to receive support and appreciation from City residents during 2016, a year when agencies across the nation had tumultuous relationships with the public. As a way to give back to the community they serve, four Department employees donated their hair to Children With Hair Loss, a nonprofit organization that creates wigs for children. Each employee expressed their reason for donating their hair on [videos](#) released on the Department's social media channels.





SEPTEMBER

New School Resource Officer Patrol Vehicle Revealed

The Department unveiled its personalized school resource officer patrol vehicle at the beginning of the school year. The new addition to the Department's fleet represents James Monroe High School. The vehicle is a symbol of City pride, team spirit, and visually displays the Department's continued commitment to Fredericksburg City Public Schools and the community.

Community and Police Come Together at "Gathering for Peace" Event

Officer Christine Erin and Sgt. Crystal Hill participated in the "Gathering for Peace" event at Hurkamp Park to celebrate International Day of Peace. Religious leaders and the Rappahannock Rotary hosted the unique and powerful event for the greater community to attend.

City Holds Ribbon Cutting for State-of-the-Art Radio System

On Sept. 27, the City of Fredericksburg unveiled its new public radio system with a ribbon-cutting ceremony held at Police headquarters. The new system provides better communication between City departments and other agencies.

OCTOBER

Police Department Goes Code Pink for Breast Cancer Awareness Month

In an effort to raise breast cancer awareness, the Fredericksburg Police Department went "code pink" for the month of October. The Fredericksburg Police Department converted a Ford Crown Victoria patrol vehicle to a pink vehicle to increase breast cancer awareness. Thirty officers also wore pink badges during the month of October and six communications officers purchased pink polo shirts and wore them during October as well.



OCTOBER CONTINUED...

Police Participate in National Coffee with a Cop Day

On Oct. 7, Chief David Nye, Capt. Brian Layton and Officer Christine Erin met with City residents at Agora Downtown Coffee Shop for casual conversation and warm beverages in celebration of National Coffee with a Cop Day. This event was an opportunity for community members to get to know their police department on a personal level.

Police Employees Bring Halloween Spirit to City

On Oct. 22, in partnership with Fredericksburg VA Main Street Inc., Fredericksburg Police officers set up a portable movie screen and showed two movies in Hurkamp Park for area families. More than 400 people showed up to watch "It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown" and the original "Hotel Transylvania" while Communications Officers Valerie Morris and Laura Mahaney served popcorn. A few days later on Oct. 29, Sgt. Crystal Hill, Parking Officer Paul Henson, and Officer Laura Mahaney participated in Treats on the Streets in Downtown Fredericksburg, where more than 90 businesses handed out candy to trick-or-treaters and enjoyed a festival with family-friendly activities at Riverfront Park.

NOVEMBER

City Police Participate in Community Cleanup Day

On November 3, Sgt. Crystal Hill, Assistant Accreditation Manager Jack Compton, and Officer Christine Erin participated in the Fredericksburg Green and Clean Commission's Community Cleanup Day. Police employees focused on cleaning up the Downtown district.

Department Raises Money for Men's Health Awareness

During November, the Fredericksburg Police Department raised \$850 for the Movember Foundation, an international nonprofit organization that focuses on men's health. The Police Department raised money in two ways. Eleven patrol officers participated in No-Shave November, a national effort to increase cancer awareness and raise funds to support cancer research and prevention. Each patrol officer who participated was permitted to grow a goatee during November in exchange for a \$30 donation to the Movember Foundation. The Police Department also sold mustache lapel pins throughout the month to City employees and to the public.





DECEMBER

Police Officers Patrol Downtown for Good Deeds

During the month of December, Fredericksburg Police officers patrolled for people on the “nice list.” Officers provided Fredericksburg Downtown gift cards to citizens who were engaging in good deeds and/or obeying the law. Citizens in the Downtown district were rewarded for acts such as walking in a designated crosswalk or holding the door for a stranger. Officers handed out 40 gift cards, each valued at \$5, redeemable at more than 65 merchants located in Downtown Fredericksburg. The gift cards were donated to the Fredericksburg Police Department by Fredericksburg VA Main Street Inc. as part of their efforts to encourage people to eat and shop locally. [Click here](#) to watch a highlights video.

31 Firearms Surrendered at Third Annual Gun Give-Back Event

Fredericksburg Police and the Fredericksburg Sheriff's Office hosted their third annual Gun Give-Back event Dec. 10. The Gun Give-Back event allows gun owners to surrender any unwanted firearms for proper and safe disposal to ensure their firearms never end up in the hands of criminals or children. For every firearm turned in, philanthropist Doris Buffett made a \$100 donation to be equally distributed among four local charities. The charities help women facing domestic violence, underprivileged children, and the homeless. Overall, 31 guns were voluntarily submitted.

Fredericksburg Police Spend Time with Area Youth and Senior Citizens During Holiday Season

On Dec. 10, the Fredericksburg Police Department participated in the 25th Annual Cops and Kids event organized by the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #15. Seven officers and non-sworn personnel joined members of other regional law enforcement agencies and took nearly 200 local children Christmas shopping at the Target in Central Park. On Dec. 15, the Fredericksburg Police Department, along with other regional law enforcement agencies, took local senior citizens Christmas shopping at the Walmart in Ferry Farm. This event was coordinated through the Spotsylvania/Stafford/Fredericksburg TRIAD, a local nonprofit organization with a mission to reduce crime against senior citizens.

CRIME ANALYSIS

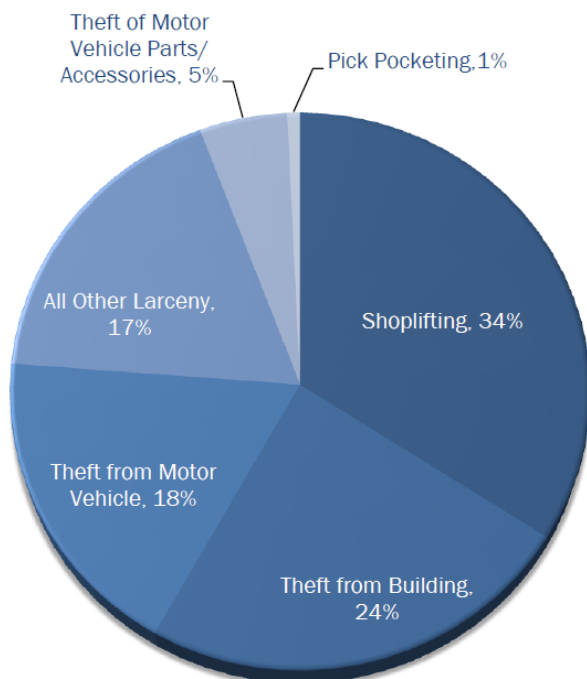
YEAR-BY-YEAR COMPARISON

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Clearance Rate 2016	National Clearance Rate 2015
Murder/ Non-Negligent Homicide*	2	1	0	7	2	100%	62%
Forcible Rape*	1	3	7	9	4	100%	38%
Robbery	19	29	24	21	19	47%	29%
Aggravated Assault*	86	80	94	82	72	76%	54%
Burglary/ Breaking and Entering	88	66	77	80	60	15%	13%
Larceny	922	1038	1093	1061	945	34%	22%
Motor Vehicle Theft	20	32	39	36	36	7%	13%
Total	1138	1249	1334	1296	1138		

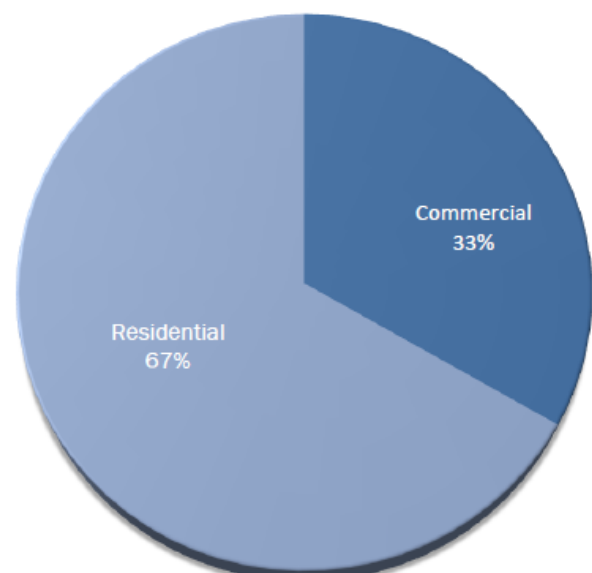
*count by number of victims, not by number of incidents

The statistical chart represents the number of reported major crimes in calendar years 2012 to 2016. The data in the comparison may differ from those published in the Virginia State Police Crime Report and/or previous FPD annual reports for one or more reasons, most commonly because the case status or classification of a report may have changed since the publication of either document.

2016 Larcenies



2016 Burglaries



PROMOTIONS



Betsy Mason
Promoted to Sergeant
March 2016



Jim Kuebler
Promoted to Lieutenant
March 2016



David Reilly
Promoted to Lieutenant
December 2016

EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR



Detective Wayne Hunnicutt
Officer of the Year



Officer Chris Menck
Auxiliary Officer of the Year



Brandon Stocks
Civilian Employee of the Year

EMPLOYEE ACHIEVEMENTS



Sergeant Betsy Mason
Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award
By FOB Lodge 15



Officer Josh Gilworth
Mothers Against Drunk Driving
DUI Prevention Award



Sergeant Rashawn Cowles
Rites of Passage Program
Assistance Recognition



Officer Nick Wagner
CIT Quarterly Award

RETIREMENTS



Lieutenant Bill Hallam
26 years of service



School Resource Officer
Julie Keene
29 years of service



Lieutenant Rikki Johnson
26 years of service



Lieutenant D. Jones
28 years of service



Watershed Property Manager
Lee Sillitoe
8 years of service



COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Throughout 2016, the Fredericksburg Police Department received continuing support from the community it serves. Fredericksburg Police Department employees cannot overstate how much they appreciate these acts of kindness and encouragement from the community. Here are some highlights from the year.





FREDERICKSBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT

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